AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Please amend paragraph 106, as follows:

Reference will now be made in detail to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, an example of which is illustrated in the accompanying drawings. With reference to FIG. 1, the apparatus and method for detecting objects or other debris on an airport runway 3 comprises an optical system 10, an object location processor 20 operably linked to the optical system 10, ~~an object characterizer 30 operably linked to the object location processor 20, an alarm activation processor 40 operably linked to the object characterizer 30, an alarm generator 45 operably linked to the alarm activation processor 40,~~ and a user interface 50 ~~operably linked to the alarm generator 45~~.

Please delete paragraphs 108 and 109, as follows:

~~In an alternative preferred embodiment the object location processor 20 may further comprise an intrusion sensor detection system 22. The object location processor 20 may further comprise an operation sensor detection system 24. In addition, the object location processor 20 may further comprise an output inspector diagnostic system 26. The object characterizer 30 may further comprise a motion detection processor 35.~~

~~In an alternative preferred embodiment, the user interface 50 may further comprise a graphical interface 52 that includes a no alarm indicator 54, a future risk~~

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~~indicator 56, and/or an imminent danger indicator 58, to warn the appropriate personnel of objects on the runway 3.~~

Please amend paragraph 112, as follows:

An alternative preferred embodiment of the present invention is an apparatus and method for detecting objects or other debris on an airport runway surface 3 comprising a plurality of optical laser transmitters 1 arranged to transmit optical laser beams 4 across portions of said runway surface 3 and a plurality of optical laser receivers 2 arranged to receive said optical lasers 4, and processing means 20~~, 30, 45, 45,~~ and 50 to process signals from said plurality of optical laser receivers 2 to determine the presence of an object on the runway surface 3. The apparatus and method may also comprise one or more optical laser transceivers 11 and one or more optical laser reflectors 12 for sensing the presence of objects on an airport runway surface.

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